

Hudgens Center will resound with music of note



My first experience with the Hudgens Center for the Arts occurred late in 1993. The first part of the facility was newly opened and at that time called the Gwinnett Fine Arts Center. Upon entering the building, I was struck by the cool, elegant beauty and the serenity of the place, and thought to myself, "I want to work here!"

And so, I badgered executive director Nancy Gullickson until she broke down and put me on as a volunteer. Eventually, I became marketing director and watched the center grow from the original building to a 60,000-square-foot complex, which now includes the Children's Arts Museum.

There is still the "cool, elegant beauty," but there is also the throb of activity virtually "24-7."

Included among our visual arts exhibitions and classes, we also have frequent performing arts programming, especially on Target Super Saturdays. This Saturday we will have a very special performance coming to us all the way from Texas.

At 11 a.m. in the Grand Hall of the Children's Arts Museum, the winners of a Mariachi com-

ART BEAT HOLLEY CALMES



petition will introduce the crowd to this melodic, lively musical form which evolved from the heart of the Mexican people. Nineteen high school students, 12 boys and 7 girls, costumed in bright red and black outfits, sing and play violins and guitars. They are "Mariachi Nuevo Santander de Roma High School," and they won the Mariachi group competition last November in San Antonio, Texas. Their prize was to come to Atlanta, where they will be performing all across the metro area, concluding their tour on Saturday night as the opening act for Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlan

at the Rialto Theatre in downtown Atlanta.

But we get to hear them first! The Children's Arts Museum opens at 10 a.m. on Saturdays. Admission is \$5 for everyone over age 3, and members are free. The group's leader will give a short talk about the music, how it evolved, and what it is all about. This event will be a great Saturday morning treat for everyone in the family.

Another lovely musical event in our near future is a concert on May 16, again in the Grand Hall of the Children's Arts Museum. The Adams Duo consists of Jennifer and John Adams. She plays the cello, he, the guitar. Together, they produce a unique and beautiful combination of sounds. In fact, a recent review put the effect the Adams Duo has on an audience in these terms:

"The Adam's unique instrumental combination and exquisite talent make even the most unlikely listeners dedicated fans of their chamber music style. They played to a standing room only crowd and were called upon

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